UNITED
NATIONS

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United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/COM.2/EM.8/1
22 September 2000

Original : ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Investment, Technology
and Related Financial Issues
Expert Meeting on Home Country Measures
Geneva, 8-10 November 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Home country measures

4. Adoption of the outcome of the meeting

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. In accordance with UNCTAD practice, the Expert Meeting should elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the Meeting is set out in section I above. A detailed programme will be available at the Meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM 2/EM.8/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3 - Home country measures

3. Pursuant to the Bangkok Plan of Action requesting UNCTAD, *inter alia*, "to study existing home country measures that could be considered in programmes to support efforts of developing countries to attract FDI and benefit from it" (TD/386, paragraph 123), and to "identify and disseminate information concerning existing home country measures that encourage transfer of technology in various modes to developing countries, in particular least developed countries" (TD/386, paragraph 118), the Trade and Development Board at the consultations of the President on 31 March 2000, decided to convene an expert meeting on "Home country measures".

4. The Expert Meeting is aimed at providing a forum for experts to exchange national experiences and best practices in six broad categories of major types of existing home country measures used to promote outward FDI, including transfer of technology:

- Information provision and technical assistance;
- Financial support;
- Fiscal incentives;
- Investment insurance;
- Measures based on market access; and
- Measures aimed at promoting or facilitating transfer of technology.

5. For each of these measures, the Meeting is expected to focus on: (1) stocktaking (what exists in this area, including spread); (2) rationale (why are they applied); (3) analysis (how have they worked, including an exchange of experience); (4) effectiveness (what can be done to enhance the impact of home country measures); (5) improvements (including possible new measures); and (6) the international dimension (how can they be operationalized in international investment/ technology agreements).

6. On the basis of country experiences and an issues paper, a number of questions will be examined. Specifically, experts are expected to address the following:

- Is there a clear formulation of the rationale for HCMs?
- What is the range of policies initiated by capital-exporting countries to facilitate outward FDI towards developing countries?
- What other categories of measures could be identified to support the efforts of developing countries (and especially the least developed countries) to attract FDI and benefit from it?
- What can be done to enhance the impact of HCMs?
- Should HCMs be structured in such a way as to promote the quality of FDI?
- Which are the existing home country measures that encourage transfer of technology to developing countries?
- Is there a role for the host country in the design and execution of HCMs, and what should be the role of other actors, such as civil society?
- Could there be greater cooperation between inward and outward investment promotion agencies?
- Finally, what could be done internationally to improve the effectiveness of HCMs and make them more stable, transparent and predictable?

7. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues paper "Home country measures: note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/COM.2/EM.8/2). Further, the secretariat will make available a working draft of a "Compendium of existing measures to faciliate the transfer of technology", and an update to the *Handbook on Outward Investment Agencies and Institutions.* Experts are invited to submit papers that address the issues raised above both from a national and an international perspective. The secretariat will facilitate the distribution of the papers at the Meeting in the form and language in which they have been received.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/EM.8/2 Home country measures -- note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Compendium of existing measures to faciliate the transfer of technology

Handbook on Outward Investment Agencies and Institutions

Item 4 - Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

8. The Expert Meeting will adopt a substantive outcome for the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues at the end of the Meeting. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the Meeting.

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